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Feminist Voices (Jan 1998)

Greater Bangor Chapter of the National Organization of Women Staff

Greater Bangor Chapter of the National Organization of Women

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Greetings! **VOTE NO on Feb 10th!!**



GBNOW 87 Sunset Strip Brewer 04412

JoAnne Dauphinee, Coordinator

207-989-3306 or femrad@aol.com

Happy New Year! 1998 promises to be **BUSY** and exciting. As I'm sure you know, leading up to the February 10th referendum on Lesbians & Gay Men's Rights, **many helping hands are needed to make GOTV - GET OUT THE VOTE - calls**. PLEASE, if you can give even 2 to 4 hours, and especially if you can do that more than once, these are **FRIENDLY CALLS** to voters believed to oppose the referendum. We'll make these GOTV calls together at sites with several phones. Other chores need doing too, but phoning is the key to victory! Penobscot County Maine Won't Discriminate volunteers are coordinating efforts with the state MWD and volunteers in Penobscot County. **NOW's Lesbian Rights Coordinator, Janet May (862-5907)**, is also a PCMWD Coordinator, and is organizing callers. Call NOW, and let her know you won't let the Christian Civic League delay again what has taken over 20 years to win!

Promise Keepers' Ladies-Against-Women Meet SOW - Society of Outraged Women! More (educational) fun by your friendly local NOW chapter. Our first showing, in a November blizzard, was well received by 20 or 25 folks. **Back by popular demand!** We'll have a second show, **Friday the 13th of February, 6 pm, Peace & Justice Center, 128 Main Street, Bangor**. The Promise Keepers are only a slightly softer, gentler right wing. They don't stress hate talk, but they are still pro-patriarchy, master gender, anti-choice, anti-lesbian...Some, especially some leadership of PK, are more extreme than many of the followers. Still, reports of lowered and lost respect for women and women's views is common.

We are having such a good time with these plays, or "readers' theater" pieces, we are planning a new one for the **HOPE Festival, April 25!** And I might try one for **International NO DIET Day, May 6th** too! I'd like to plan an action for NO DIET Day, in addition to a pot luck and play.

CHAPTER ELECTIONS!



As noted in our last *Feminist Voices*, chapter elections will occur **January 12th, 6pm, P&J Center, 128 Main St, Bangor**. Chapter officers include: Coordinator, Co-coordinator or Assistant, Treasurer, Scribe, Affirmative Action Coordinator, & Minority Representative. Ha ha. We don't even have that many activists. Terms are one year. Note: We did adopt the bylaws changes proposed in the previous newsletter. [Only dues-paying members definitely got the "bylaws included" version.] **COME ONE, COME ALL JANUARY 12th!**

ROE V. WADE 25 YEARS LATER

On January 22nd, we will have an action for the 25th anniversary of **Roe v. Wade**. NOW will not rest until all women have access to **comprehensive** reproductive health services.

Deanna and I will talk about what has already been lost, and current threats in Congress and the Maine legislature. I hope the pen is mightier than the sword (and bullets & arsons & firebombs & death threats) since we will do letter writing, postcards, and/or petitions for choice!

In addition to the considerable U.S. anti-choice violence NOT reported in the mainstream press, several Canadian doctors have been shot since 1994. Most recently **Dr. Jack Fainman of Winnipeg, Manitoba**, took a bullet through the shoulder. He is in stable condition.

Meanwhile, our ability to elect **pro-choice & mixed-pro-choice lawmakers** prevails. Majorities of our citizens are primarily pro-choice. And, we have a pro-choice governor & we enjoy our first truly pro-choice President. Locally, we have several abortion providers, brave and true.

The **CUREs Project**, which **Deanna** coordinates, is going strong. This is a much needed model for common non-violent ground, where honorable pro- and anti-choice people stand. And, last but far from least...

NEWS FROM MABEL'S

Our wonderful **Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center!** Readers may recall from our *Fall Feminist Voices*, Mabel's has done so well, they are moving into a larger space! **Grand Opening** will be **February 5, 1998!** They are still in the **In Town Plaza**, 362 Harlow St., just a couple of doors down from their old spot. **Open House** is **noon to 7 pm**. There will be light refreshments and gleeful tours!

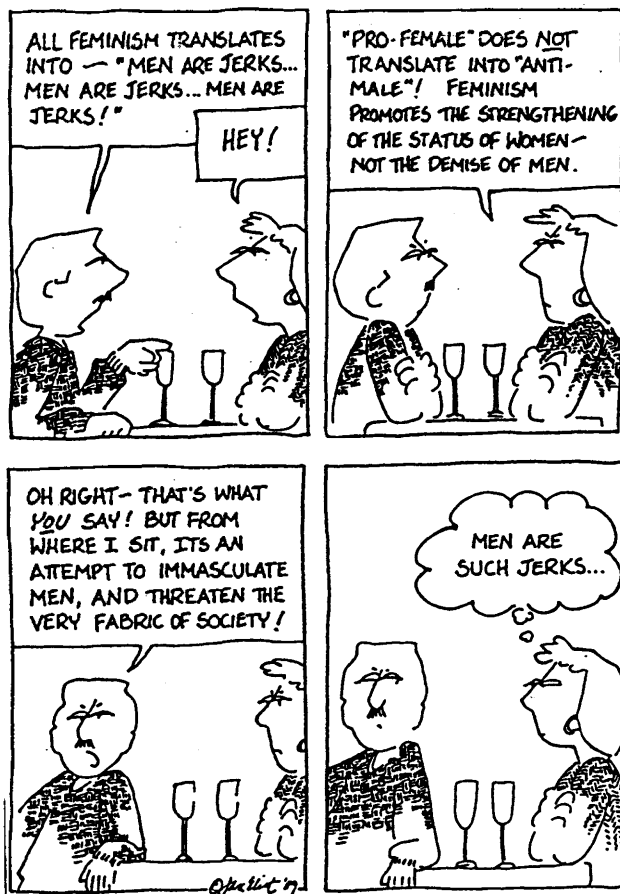
•The '98 **Health In Our Hands Conference** will be April 18th.

•Mabel's offers a **Lesbian Health Clinic** every 2nd Saturday. Call for an appointment. Donations gratefully accepted.

•The **Lesbian Support Group** has moved to the 1st and 3rd Tuesday evenings.

—For more information on Mabel's or any of the above, call 947-5337, or write: **MWWHC**, P O BOX 918, Bangor ME 04402.

Battle Lines



~Jan Eliot

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION!

NOW will sponsor - with P&J - a talk for Affirmative Action on **Friday, January 16th, 6pm**, **Peace & Justice Center**, 128 Main St, Bangor. Greater Bangor NAACP Affirmative Action liaison, and recent past secretary of

ROE V. WADE 25 Years Later

JoAnne Dauphinee & Deanna Partridge

Speak Out!

**The Rightwing vultures have been eating away at
the Reproductive Rights pie!
Soon, there will little left to defend.**

**DEFEND YOUR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS!
FIGHT FOR EVERY WOMAN'S
RIGHT TO CHOOSE!**

**Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine
128 Main St Bangor**

JANUARY 22nd, 6 pm

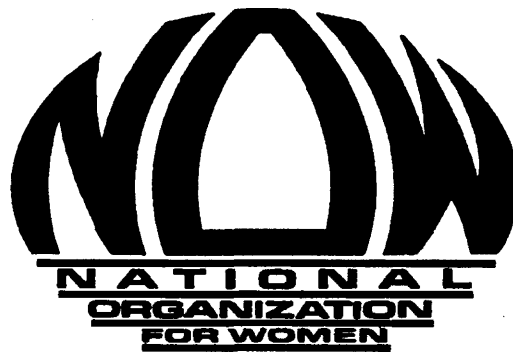


**SPONSORED BY GREATER BANGOR NOW
National Organization for Women**

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION
IS GOOD
FOR WOMEN, MINORITIES,
&
DEMOCRACY!**

Dr. Josephine Bright, Affirmative Action liaison &
recent past Secretary of Greater Bangor NAACP
"Affirmative Action & African Americans"

JoAnne Dauphinee, Greater Bangor NOW Coordinator
Maine NOW Board Member
"Affirmative Action,
Chipping Away at White Man's Advantage"



Peace & Justice Center
128 Main St., Bangor

January 16th, 6-7pm

GB NAACP, Dr. Josephine Bright will speak on African Americans & Affirmative Action.

I (JoAnne) will make a brief presentation on Affirmative Action as well, **Chipping Away At White Man's Advantage**. We'll then take comments & Q&A.

Figuring I had some brushing up to do, I bought a few good books, and rummaged through recent issues of various feminist & left-wing rags to which I subscribe. Two books stand out for me so far: Barbara Bergmann's **In Defense of Affirmative Action**, and an anthology, **The Affirmative Action Debate**, George Curry, Ed. Both were published in 1996.

Affirmative Action HAS worked to improve work & education for women, Blacks, and others. It **IS supported** by the great majority of people. Discrimination AND workplace segregation is still RAMPANT in the U.S., so Affirmative Action is **STILL NEEDED!**

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION UNDER ATTACK

A conservative U.S. Supreme Court's (5-4) 1995 **Adarand** ruling changed the the standard by which Affirmative Action - AA - is judged to the **strict scrutiny** standard - the toughest standard to meet. And, AA was essentially wiped out by California's 1996 Prop 209, recently upheld by the Supremes.

Rightwingers, sensing affirmative actions' current vulnerability after years of attack (and

hundreds of Reagan-Bush court appointments), **have targeted this issue for the '98 campaigns**. And, after the rightwing's success on California Prop 209, as many as **twenty states** have introduced similar measures for consideration.

There is, of course, a considerable amount of **misinformation** — **not** all of it by accident! — in the public mind about Affirmative Action. Programs **almost never** involve quotas, and **only** if imposed by courts convinced of **intentional** discrimination.

Also, the **ANTI-Affirmative Action** bill introduced in Congress this past June is deceptively titled the "**Civil Rights Act of 1997**" (H.R.1909/ S.950), also known as the Canady-McConnell bill.

**ACTION! H.R.1909/S.950
MUST BE STOPPED!
Lobby Sens. Snowe &
Collins, and Rep. Baldacci
to OPPOSE this bill.**

Tabled by the Judiciary Committee in November, some Judiciary members are having 2nd thoughts about such an extreme measure. **The bill, which will be debated in Congress in 1998**, would make illegal any use of "preferences" even for proven patterns of discrimination, and possibly even for proven intentional discrimination. It is even more **extreme than "strict scrutiny"**, and essentially would wipe out 30 years of bipartisan civil rights policy, as the Republican Congressional leadership continues to sleep with the radical right.

Good faith efforts (such as Xerox) are rare, but are showcases for companies willing to learn. Community Education efforts on the advantages of embracing diversity are needed and nearly non-existent.

When questions are posed fairly, public opinion is very much in favor of AA. A 1995 Harris poll showed nearly 2 to 1 support. We must promote it in the media, legislatures, and Congress!

SUPPORT BILL LANN LEE!

When it looked like there were enough Senate votes to confirm President Clinton's nominee for Assistant Attorney General, Bill Lann Lee, Senate Judiciary Chair Orrin Hatch (R-UT) refused to let his committee take up the question. Hatch admits Lee is qualified. Hatch's reason for blocking the confirmation? Bill Lann Lee supports Affirmative Action.

**ACTION! Urge Senators
Snowe & Collins to push
the confirmation of Bill
Lann Lee!**

MARTIN LUTHER KING BIRTHDAY BREAKFAST

"Keeping The Dream Alive" is the theme of the Greater Bangor NAACP Breakfast Celebration, Monday, January 19th, 7:30 - 9am, Wells Common, UM, Orono. [see flier] The breakfast will feature brief com-

ments from a number of local folks (including moi! [I can too be brief!])

The breakfast is also intended to be a fundraiser for the NAACP chapter, so adults' tickets are \$10, **students & children** under 12, \$5. Please Join us if you can! We'll have a NOW Table!

BIG FAT LIES & NO FAT CHICKS

New book titles to add to the dozens of others now discrediting the diet industry. *No Fat Chicks* by Terry Poulton explores how big business profits by making women hate their bodies - and how to fight back! *Big Fat Lies* by Glenn A. Gaesser, Ph.D. tells truths about weight and health. Also, currently on bookstore shelves is *The Secret Language of Eating Disorders* by Peggy Claude-Pierre, Director & founder of the Montreux Clinic.

On September 15, the Food & Drug Administration asked drug manufacturers to voluntarily withdraw both **fenfluramine** and **dexfenfluramine (Redux)** from the market. The companies, Interneuron Pharmaceuticals & Wyeth-Ayerst Labs, complied.

The FDA action came a week **after** NAAFA, **National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance**, and the **Council on Size & Weight Discrimination** filed suit against the FDA and the drug companies, and after findings that some 30% of patients evaluated had developed abnormal echocardiograms.

NAAFA has opposed these drugs for over 3 years. Though the

heart valve problems had not yet come to light, it was known - **3 years ago** - that dexfenfluramine causes **primary pulmonary hypertension (a fatal disease) and brain damage** in some patients.

NAAFA is also opposed to the FDA approving **sibutramine**, to be marketed as **Meridia** as an appetite suppressant. Another "anti-fat" drug to avoid is Xenical, which is implicated in breast cancer. Request for FDA approval has been temporarily withdrawn.

Meanwhile, the FDA and FTC (Federal Trade Commission) are in sinc with NAAFA in warning against newer diet scams: "Herbal Fen-Phen" and Chromium Picolinate are bad news! Do not use them!

For more information on these and other diet scams, contact JoAnne at GBNOW, or NAAFA P. O. Box 188620 Sacramento CA 95818 or their web site <http://NAAFA.org>

NAAFA's 1998 Convention will be in Los Angeles, August 11-16.

Spread the word:

- Fat bashing is unacceptable!
- Fatness & good health are not mutually exclusive!
- Beauty comes in ALL sizes!
- A waist is a terrible thing to mind!

THE HISTORY OF WILD WOMEN



~ Libby Reid

KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE

I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed, "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal."



2ND ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING BREAKFAST

Monday, January 19, 1998--7:30 to 9 a.m.

Wells Conference Center

University of Maine Campus-- Orono

Donation:

Adults--\$10

Children under 12--\$5

Sponsors:

Greater Bangor Area NAACP

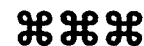
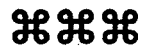
University of Maine Human Rights Coalition

Co-Chairs: 1st Lady Dianne Hoff

Dr. Glenda Richardson

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS

Further information? Call 866-2626



Access to Health Care. Legislation passed at the end of the last session provided \$8 million to expand access to health care for children. This legislation also created a Commission to make recommendations to the next legislative session about how many children will be covered (for example, do we serve all kids under 200% of the poverty level, or some lesser level), and whether they will be covered by Medicaid or a private health insurance program. In addition, this summer Congress passed legislation that would give Maine an additional amount of federal dollars to expand health care for children. The Commission will discuss how this new federal money will be spent as well. The legislature will make the final decisions about who will be covered and how, when it returns in January.

TANF Time Limits. Although much legislation related to welfare reform was passed in the last session (see M.A.I.N. Update, July 1997), at least one very important decision has not yet been made. Although the new federal welfare reform law places a 5-year lifetime limit on TANF assistance that is paid for with federal dollars, it does not stop States from providing benefits to families after 5 years with state dollars. So, Maine could decide not to deny aid to families who need help after 5 years by simply paying for it with their own money. Legislation that would continue assistance to families beyond 5 years, providing they were meeting all other program requirements, was introduced last year by Senator Ann Rand (D. Portland). The Health and Human Services Committee "held over" this bill and will take action on it this year.

M.A.I.N. believes that there are many reasons that families may need assistance for longer than 5 years in a lifetime. These include health problems, an economy that doesn't provide stable jobs that support families, domestic violence, and lack of access to education or training that provide the skills to leave welfare permanently. M.A.I.N. will be working to ensure that a safety net will be there for low income children and their families if and when they need it.

Minimum Wage. Several bills to raise the minimum wage above the federal minimum wage, were introduced in the last session and held over for final action this year. Although the federal minimum wage was increased twice in the last two years and is now \$5.15/hour, families who earn it still live well below the poverty level. All of the other New England states except Maine and New Hampshire have a state minimum wage that is higher than the federal minimum.

Food Stamps for Legal Immigrants. Legislation that would continue to provide food stamps to legal immigrants who are now cut off under federal law was also held over by the Health and Human Resources Committee. If passed, this bill would provide state funded food stamp assistance to this group of needy families.

State Earned Income Tax Credit. Legislation that would have created a State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), like the federal EITC, was killed in the last session. However, the Legislature's Taxation Committee is starting work now on a tax relief package for the next session. M.A.I.N. and others are planning to propose that the Committee reconsider a State EITC to provide additional income for low income working families with children. The State Planning Office will make a presentation to the Committee this month also proposing that it consider a State EITC. More than a dozen other States, including at least 2 other New England States have adopted an EITC that provides working families in those states with much needed additional income each year.

Unemployment Benefit Reform. Only 4 out of 10 unemployed Maine people qualify for unemployment compensation benefits. The number of low income people who qualify is even lower. Many people run out of benefits before they are able to find work, others are disqualified because they had to leave work because of a child care or transportation crisis. Some people, particularly single parents whose family responsibilities limit them to part time work, are never able to qualify at all, as are many people who can only find seasonal work. Legislation was passed last year creating a Commission to study these problems and recommend legislation to address them in the next session beginning in January.

Managed Care Ombudsman. This legislation would create an "ombuds program" to serve people who are having problems with their managed health care plans. An ombudsman would be responsible for investigating complaints from health care consumers and working to resolve them. This bill was held over in the Legislature's Banking and Insurance Committee where work will begin on it early in the next session.

Low Income Electric Assistance. The Public Utilities Commission and the State Planning Office will be recommending legislation that may make changes in the low income electricity benefits currently available to many Maine families. While we don't yet know what will be recommended, there is some concern that the recommendation may result in reduced benefits to low income families. M.A.I.N. will be watching this issue carefully and will report future developments in the next M.A.I.N. Update.

MAINE NOW VISIONING SUMMIT

As we look ahead to a new year, decade, century, millenium - we try to imagine where feminism might go, should go, and ways to get us there! NOW "Vision Workshops" offer some framework and direction for dreaming and discussing the issues.

Maine NOW will offer such a workshop [Portland ?] March 14, 1998. The ideas that emerge will join reports from other states, and will be presented at the National NOW Conference July 11-13th. JoAnne has more on the format for those who might be interested.

SPRUCE RUN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

SPRUCE RUN, a domestic violence agency which provides services for battered women and their children, will be offering a fourty-three hour **HOTLINE Training** in January, 1998. If you are interested in working on our Hotline and making a difference in the lives of battered women - and, you are able to make a one year commitment - please call our resource center at 945-5102 for a volunteer application by January 16th.

Spruce Run's **25th Anniversary Celebration** will be Saturday, **April 18, 1998**, at the Maine Center for the Arts, featuring **Toshi Reagon wiyh Big Lovely in Concert!**

THE M.A.I.N. THING

Maine Association of Interdependent Neighborhoods, an advocacy group for for people with low incomes, has done an amazing job over many tough years. They lobbied Maine legislatures to improve things when possible, embrace the kinds of programs that actually help people, and it has attempted to analyze and promote the best parts of a rapidly changing welfare beaurocracy.

Included in this newsletter is a page from one of theirs, describing just **SOME** of the issues likely to be addressed in the current 1998 legislative session. NOW urges our members to lobby on these issues too.

Several of us visited **Todd Benoit**, *Bangor Daily News* Editorial Page Editor, recently. It was a **"Jobs With Justice"** action, with representatives from GBNOW, M.A.I.N., CCC, and two folks trying to deal with the welfare/workfare bureaucracy from the very frustrating inside! He listened patiently, asked questions. Whether he wrote an editorial, you tell me. I never seem to have time to read "men's news" [mainstream press] anymore.

Some of you may get this in time to go to M.A.I.N.'s regular meeting **January 8th**. You are also invited to their regional meeting, **February 6, 10am - 2pm**, at the **CAP Agency, Waterville**. Lunch is included. Call **Judy Guay 947-4371** for details, or if you have any questions about legislative issues & who/how/when to lobby. M.A.I.N.'s address is P O BOX 2711, Bangor ME 04402.

PROGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY

There will be a gathering of key activists, elected officials, and labor leaders from throughout New England, in Groton, Massachusetts, Friday February 27 through Sunday Lunch on March 1. They will address effectiveness of state organizations, review key shared issues, & try to strengthen unity among leaders. For more info 1-860-231-2410

WERU - THE PEOPLE'S RADIO 89.9 & 102.9

January 13th, 1pm, try **89.9 or 102.9** on your radio dial, for a little feminist chat! Yours truly and a few other good feminists will chat about NOW and the future of feminism with WERU's **Gen'l Manager, Cathy Mello**.

On January 15th, 5-6pm there will be a **Peace Round Table** discussion. A P&J person or two will likely participate. Also, WERU invited P&J to do a regular series of 15 minute spots, which have been going well. I did one already on feminism, and I did a half hour talk with **Anna Allocco** on the **Clean Clothes Campaign**, also thanks to Cathy! Speaking of CCC...

CLEAN CLOTHES CAMPAIGN 2ND YEAR KICK-OFF

As the CCC enters another year of activity, we are essentially following two parallel paths. The **Retailer Committee** has formal

commitments from a dozen or so local merchants to trace their products as best they can, and create "Clean Clothes" [non-sweatshop] sections to their stores. Among our first signers, at a November 22 ceremony at Norumbega Hall, were owners:

- ✓ Cynthia & Tom Cavanaugh, from **Best Bib & Tucker**, Bangor
- ✓ Rick Schweikert, **The Grasshopper Shop**, Bangor
- ✓ Brad Ryder, **Cadillac Mountain Sports**, Bangor
- ✓ Cheryl & Matthew Curtis, **Cadillac Mountain Sports**, Ellsworth & Bar Harbor
- ✓ Mike & Donna Allen, **Winterport Boot Shop**, Brewer
- ✓ Roberta & John Bradson, **The Store/Ampersand**, Orono
- ✓ Cyd Dyjak, **Absolute Soccer**, Old Town
- ✓ Paul Cormier, **Cormier's Clothing**, Bangor
- ✓ Jeff Peet, **Ski Rack Sports**, Bangor
- ✓ Ellie Daniels & Penny Behrens, **The Green Store**, Belfast
- ✓ Tom Oppen, **Liberty Graphics**, Liberty

The second committee is the **Consumer Action Network**. For a requested donation of \$5, consumers will get a **membership card**, with "Clean Clothes Standards" on the back. Members will also receive a **newsletter - Clean Clothes Consumer**". This will give them/you ideas on how & where to shop, and how to press retailers to get on board. The idea is to patronize the "good guys" and encourage more store owners to join the CCC.

Meanwhile, the CCC also keeps in touch with other anti-

sweatshop efforts around the world. We continue to spread the word through our locally produced **slide show** and other talks. We push for **higher workplace standards** wherever we are able.

NOW WOMEN FRIENDLY WORKPLACE CAMPAIGN

As some of you know from *National NOW Times* articles over 1997, NOW is also working in various ways to improve workplaces, especially for women. From **strawberry pickers'** rights in California, to **Wall Street's** (& too rapidly spreading elsewhere!) "mandatory arbitration".

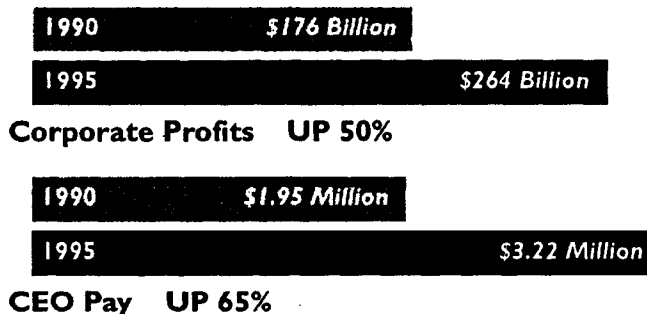
Mandatory arbitration undermines women's new ability under **Title VII** of the 1964 Civil Rights Act to remedial damages & limited punitive damages as well.

The **Women-Friendly Workplace Campaign** asks us (activists) to extract a **Pledge** from as many workplaces as possible. The pledge goes beyond the Clean Clothes Campaign basics but includes the same ideas.

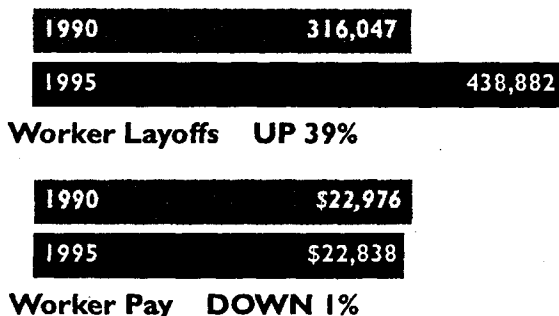
The NOW Pledge asks for a workplace free of discrimination based on sex, race, sexual orientation, age, marital or family status, pregnancy, parenthood, disability or size. [my emphasis]

ECONOMICS

The Economy is Doing Very Well for Investors and CEOs...



...But Employees See More Layoffs and Lower Wages



Figures provided by UNITED FOR A FAIR ECONOMY

The Pledge calls for an **affirmative action** plan for women & people of color. It explicitly insists that benefits provided to spouses of employees be extended to **domestic partners** - including same-sex couples.

GBNOW has not taken up this specific campaign, but has expressed a wish to do so. It may be we could find a way to piggyback on the efforts of our Clean Clothes Campaign. It would be an opportunity to educate on everything from sexual harassment to affirmative action to size-discrimination! Anyone out there interested?

TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS TO WORK DAY

April something (24th last year) is TODTWD. Last year was a missed opportunity for us, though we did have a table at UM. Maybe this year, we could lead a field trip to some "Women-Friendly Workplaces", maybe women-owned or managed...

Anyone want to help?
Anyone have a bright idea?

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH MARCH 8 International Women's Day

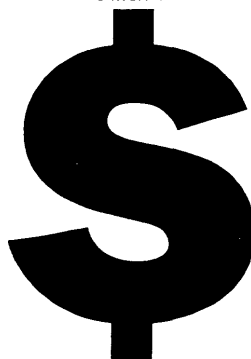
March presents another opportunity for GBNOW to focus on workplace issues. IWD evolved from women standing up for their rights, and toward more & more demands for Women-Friendly Workplaces. Socialist women, immigrants in the U.S. garment districts, and women in countries around the globe mark IWD with

demonstrations, education, and celebrations. In '97, GB aired some "workplace dirty laundry" and educated on lies & truths about women & work.

firmed, Patricia Ireland, NOW President. If you are a young feminist, or if you know a young feminist who might like to attend, please let GBNOW know!

TAX THE RICH

IF EACH PERSON IN AMERICA'S RICHEST 1% HAS THIS MUCH MONEY:



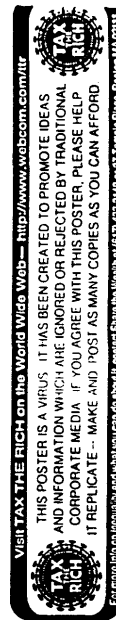
THEN PEOPLE IN THE NEXT 4% HAVE THIS MUCH:



AND THE REST OF US HAVE THIS MUCH:

(RIGHT HERE)

TYPE SIZES ARE PROPORTIONAL TO ACTUAL WEALTH CONCENTRATION BY PERCENTILE DATA FROM EDWARD WOLF, "TOP HEAVY," 19TH CENTURY FUND, N.Y., 1993



NOW HOSTS SEVERAL WOMEN'S GATHERINGS IN 1998

• **National NOW Conference** next July 11-13

• **The Power of Our Voices: NOW's Northeast Regional Young Feminists Summit** February 27 - March 1st in Boston, Royal Sonesta Hotel [\$108 flat rate for room for the 1st 50 who register, \$115 after that. Cutoff Jan 30, '98. Ph 617-491-3600]

Confirmed speaker - Nat'l NOW officer, Elizabeth Toledo. Uncon-

We may be able to help with costs, and as we get closer to the date a lot more info will be available.

• **Women of Color & Allies Summit: Linking Arms in Dangerous Times** on February 20-22 (flier & registration form in this issue)

If you would like to attend this conference, especially if you are a woman of color, please let GBNOW know! We may be able to help with costs, and JoAnne has additional info.

The mission of this Summit is to bring together women of color and supportive allies to discuss current concerns and future strategies. The Summit will cel-

celebrate our commonality, share our ideas, and create a framework to ensure the value, vision and inclusion of women of color in the feminist movement. The feminist movement must grow in ways that are truly inclusive and diverse, or it will fail us all.

The Summit, organized by NOW, is sponsored by over 50 organizations. I did announce it at several local meetings already, including NOW, NAACP, P&J & I will continue to announce it.

PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THESE EVENTS!

Thanks!

HATE CRIMES UPDATE!

This November, at the White House Conference on Hate Crimes, President Clinton announced his support for an expansion in the federal criminal civil rights law prohibiting hate crimes. The expansion would add crimes based on sex, sexual orientation, or disability. The new categories will be added to existing ones in Title 18 Section 245, related to religion, race, national origin, and ethnicity.

The President's position was buttressed by a strong expression of support for the expansion by Attorney General Janet Reno, at a November 3rd meeting with NOW officers Patricia Ireland, Kim Gandy, Karen Johnson, Elizabeth Toledo, and NOW National Board Advisory co-chairs, Ellie Smeal & Janet Canterbury.

NOW has been advocating for nearly a decade to have serious crimes which are clear expressions of violent misogynist or homophobic behavior prohibited in federal statutes.

Sometime prior to the Conference, legislation was introduced which would:

- ≈Amend the current statute allowing prosecutors to pursue cases of hate violence committed on the basis of race, national origin, or religion, without also having to prove the perpetrator was interfering with "federally protected activities" (such as going to school or voting)

- ≈Make hate crimes motivated by the victim's disability, sexual orientation, or gender, federal crimes for the first time. The crime must have involved or affected interstate commerce.

- ≈Authorize funding for prevention programs & add law enforcement personnel to assist state & local investigators.

NOTE: The bill would provide additional protection for battered women and victims of rape, sexual assault, and incest, when those crimes fit a pattern of hate violence.

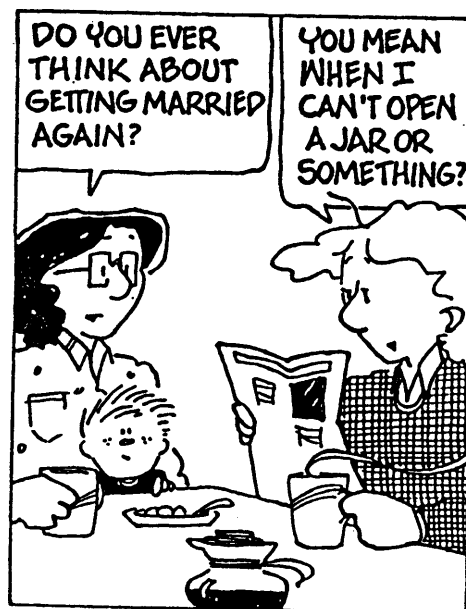
Currently, only 17 states have statutes which prohibit sex-based hate crimes and frequently these crimes are not adequately prosecuted. Maine is one of the 17, but not a single case of sex-based hate crimes has been prosecuted in Maine.

Between January 1, 1997 and October 22, Maine heard 159 hate crimes complaints. Categorized by type of victim, 39% were Black, 31% Lesbian or Gay, 9% Jewish, 21% other (including 3% reproductive rights). Asked

whether rape or domestic battery were considered sex-based hate crimes, Maine Attorney General Andrew Ketterer responded they were not. He said serial batterers or serial rapists might fall in this category.

ACTION! Urge Senators Snowe & Collins to cosponsor S.1529, and Representatives Baldacci & Allen to cosponsor H.3081. Ask them to contact Tom Perez in Sen. Kennedy's office 202-224-7878 or David Yassky, minority counsel for the House Judiciary Committee at 202-225-7087.

NOW also seeks additional organizational endorsements and would love to have law enforcement organizations, and other professional, civic, religious, and women's/minority groups join in support.



~Jan Eliot

WOMEN OF COLOR AND ALLIES SUMMIT



**WORKSHOPS! ACTION SESSIONS! NETWORKING!
DISCUSSION GROUPS! SPEAKERS! EXHIBITORS!**

**February 20 - 22, 1998
Washington National Airport Hilton Washington D.C.**

call for information and registration:

phone: 202-331-0066 x771 e-mail: conference@now.org web site: <http://www.now.org>

or return coupon below to:

NOW, 1000 16th Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington D.C. 20036

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Phone/Fax/E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

GBNOW ANNUAL CALENDAR 1998

[As of January 1st - for updates, call
Jo 989-3306, or join NOW!]



JANUARY - Anti-Referendum Work!
12 GBNOW ANNUAL ELECTIONS
Meeting! 6pm P&J (Peace &
Justice) Center
128 Main, Bangor
13 WERU Feminist Roundtable 1pm
16 Affirmative Action NOW 6pm P&J
19 Martin Luther King Day
Breakfast 7:30-9am
Wells Common UM
22 Roe v Wade 25th Anniversary
Action/Event 6pm P&J

FEBRUARY - Black History Month
9 GBNOW 6pm P&J
10 **REFERENDUM ELECTION -
VOTE NO!!**
13 *Promise KReepers Ladies-
Against-Women Meet SOW,
Society of Outraged Women - a
Radical Thesbians reading 6pm
at P&J/ followed at 7pm by P&J
film Who's Counting? Marilyn
Waring on Sex, Lies & Global
Economics*
15 Susan B. Anthony's Birthday
20-22 NOW Women of Color & Allies
Summit, D.C.
27-1 NOW Young Feminist Summit,
Boston

MARCH - Women's History Month
8 International Women's Day
9 GBNOW 6pm P&J -*Redefining
Liberation* 20 min. NOW video on
advertisers use of liberation
imagery to sell women lies/
discussion will follow

APRIL
13 GBNOW 6pm P&J
18 Spruce Run's 25th Anniversary
Celebration - Toshi Reagon
with Big Lovely, Maine Center
for the Arts
22 Secretaries/Office Workers Day
— Take Our Daughters to Work Day
25 H.O.P.E. Festival (4th!) Brewer
GBNOW Table (& ACTION?!))

MAY - Asian Heritage Month
6 International NO DIET Day ACTION!
& Potluck, 6pm Jo's, 87 Sunset
Strip, Brewer
10 Mother's Day
11 GBNOW 6pm P&J

JUNE
8 GBNOW 6pm P&J
9 Primary Elections
— World's Largest Garage Sale
27 A.C.T.III (WITH P&J) for economic
justice/ eve: Molly Ivans,
keynoter & fundraiser for
H.O.M.E.

JULY
11-13 Nat'l NOW Conference
13 GBNOW 6pm P&J
— Lesbian & Gay Pride events

AUGUST
10 GBNOW 6pm P&J (We sometimes
skip this meeting - call first)
— (Gay Times, COA, Bar Harbor)
26 WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY
ACTION/CELEBRATION WITH
P&J

SEPTEMBER - Sexual Assault Awareness Mo
14 GBNOW 6pm P&J
— (COMMON GROUND FAIR)

OCTOBER - Domestic Violence Awareness &
Breast Cancer Awareness Month
12 GBNOW 6pm P&J

NOVEMBER
3 Election Day
9 GBNOW 6pm P&J

DECEMBER
14 GBNOW 6pm P&J





MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

COUNT ME IN! I wish to join NOW and commit myself to take action to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all privileges and responsibilities thereof in truly equal partnership with men. MAINE NOW, P.O. BOX 4012, Portland, ME 04101. Make check payable to MAINE NOW.

NAME (Please PRINT) _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

RACIAL/ETHNIC BACKGROUND (optional) _____ to help us analyze our organization's diversity.

CHAPTER: ME 0025 GREATER BANGOR NOW

Join the National
Organization for
Women



Dues rate includes membership at the national, state & local level.

\$ _____ dues enclosed. \$35 Regular Dues. A sliding scale of \$20 - 34 is available, if you need it.

\$ _____ additional contribution enclosed. \$ _____ Political Action Committee contribution. Payable to Maine NOW PAC.

☐ PLEASE CHECK HERE IF YOU DO NOT WANT MAINE NOW TO SHARE YOUR NAME WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. (see Maine NOW policy below)

☐ Please check here if you do not want National NOW to share your name with other groups.

NAME SHARING POLICY: Maine NOW shares our member list for coalition work, in which we are active (see list above). We also occasionally, on a case-by-case basis, will share the list with progressive groups who are advertising events or sharing information.

ABOVE & BEYOND - CONSIDER A MONTHLY DONATION (\$5, \$10...) AND RECEIVE THE MONTHLY JAW - JO'S ACTION MESSAGE NEWSLETTER!

You may make a one-time contribution or sign up for the sustainer program by using the form below.

Sustainer Program

I pledge to support Maine NOW by making a monthly contribution.

I would like my contribution to go to (choose one):

- ☐ Maine Now and Maine NOW PAC (50/50)
☐ Maine NOW only
☐ Maine NOW PAC only

\$ _____ amount per month.

Occupation: _____

☐ I prefer to be sent a monthly reminder

I wish to have it taken automatically from my ☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard

Card # _____

Expiration Date: _____

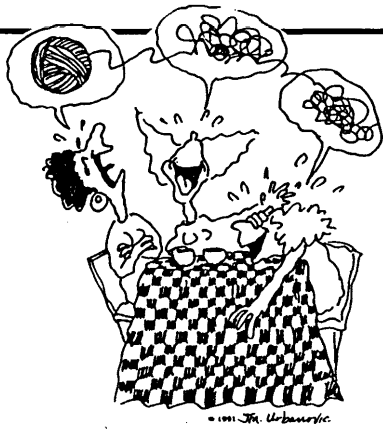
Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Town, State, Zip _____

Not authorized by any candidate. Paid for by Maine NOW. Send to MNP, 87 Sunset Str., Brewer, Maine 04412



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**Greater Bangor NOW
National Organization
for Women**

**87 Sunset Strip
Brewer ME 04412**

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CHARLEY MARTIN
101 FERNALD HALL
ORONO ME 04469

INSIDE:

- p1 **Vote NO Feb 10,**
Chapter Elections,
Radical Thesblans
- p2-5 **Roe v Wade Action,**
news from Mabel's,
Affirmative Action!
- p5-7 **Martin Luther King,**
Big FAT Lies
- p8 **M.A.I.N. Legislative**
Preview
- p9 **Various Community News**
- p9-10 **Clean Clothes Cam**
paign/ NOW's Women-
Friendly Workplace
Campaign
- p11-13 **NOW Conferences:**
Young Feminists,
Women of Color &
Allies, & NOW Annual
/Hate Crimes update
- p14 **GBNOW Annual Calendar**
- p15 **Membership form**
- p16 **Whew! We made it to**
The End

**VOTE NO
February 10**

Maine Won't
Discriminate



THIS NEWSLETTER WAS PAID FOR BY GREATER BANGOR NOW &
AUTHORIZED BY MAINE NOW PAC, 87 SUNSET STRIP, BREWER ME
04412, JOANNE DAUPHINEE, MNP TREASURER